

Welcome!

We are so glad you are here with us today. We especially welcome those who are new to the Church. If you would like more information about us, please take and complete a slip in the Welcome Area and give it to a Steward or a Minister.

Collect for This Sunday

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Today at St. John's

8:00am	Communion	Reading: Exodus 25:1-22; Revelation 14:14-15:8
10.00am	Morning Worship	Reading: Exodus 25:1-22; Revelation 14:14-15:8 <i>Preacher: Glyn Lucas</i>
6:30pm	Communion	Why do Jews need the Gospel? <i>Preacher: Peter Chamberlin</i>

No Service next Sunday at Emmanuel due to the Surrey Half Marathon

Next week at St John's

8.00am	Communion	Reading: Revelation 16:1-21; Exodus 32:1-35
	<i>CBBC between services</i>	
10.00am	Communion	Reading: Revelation 16:1-21; Exodus 32:1-35
6.30pm	Evening Worship	Why Do Buddhists need the Gospel?

Next week at Emmanuel

9:30am	Morning Worship	Reading: Exodus 25:1-22; Revelation 14:14-15:8
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St John the Baptist Church,
Church Road, St John's, Woking,
GU21 7QN Tel: **01483 377477**

Office hours: 9am -1pm, Mon – Fri
office@stjohnswoking.uk



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Events This Week:

Mon 9 th	9:30am	Ladies' Bible group	Church lounge
Tues 10 th	6:00pm 7:15pm 8:00pm	Dangerous Kids Club (7-10s) Youth groups (11-18s) Music group rehearsal	Youth Centre Youth Centre Church
Wed 11 th	10.00am 7:45pm	Men's Bible study Homegroup in church	Church lounge Church lounge
Thurs 12 th	10:30am	Grieving hearts group	Church lounge
Fri 13 th	9:30am	Ladies' Bible study	Narthex

Dates for your Diary:

21st Sept – Ladies' Breakfast

29th Sept – Bring and share harvest lunch (sign-up sheets in the welcome area)

Church Photos: You may still be approached for a photo of yourself for the new digital contact directory if the photographer didn't manage to catch you in August. If you prefer not to have a photo of yourself or your children (in a family group) included, just let the photographer know. The directory is to enable the leadership team to identify people more easily.

AM's house update: Work has started! The appeal target has now been reached! Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed so that we can be confident of being able to finish on time (and in time for Christmas). There are photos in the Welcome Area.

Ladies who Breakfast: Saturday 21st September, 8:30-9:30am.

Start your weekend well by joining us in the Narthex to listen to a short podcast whilst enjoying a continental-style breakfast.

Sign up by 14th September either on the sheet in the welcome area or by emailing Jo, chamberlin.joanna@gmail.com.

We hope to see you there!

SGP: SGP Prayers: This week, our own church is the focus for the partnership's prayers! Give praise and be encouraged that other churches locally are praying for us!

Cartridge recycling: We have a box in the printer room for recycling original and branded ink cartridges only. Please make use of this facility, if you wish. Compatibles not accepted.

If anyone has experience of selling on Ebay (or other platforms) and would be willing to sell no-longer-needed items on behalf of the church, could they please contact the office.

If you are, or know of others, in need of financial help, the church has access to a charitable fund which can make small one-off donations. Please speak to Glyn, in confidence.

What's happening in Myanmar?

8th September

Unless you joined St John's more recently, you'll remember that Glyn, Warwick and Phyllis had been planning to visit some friends – believers in Jesus – in Myanmar back in February. As the security situation deteriorated in the country, it was decided that the trip could not go ahead – a great disappointment to those in Myanmar and here, though by the wonders of modern technology they were able to spend some time teaching remotely from the UK. Although civil wars tend to receive little attention in UK news coverage, which focus international conflicts, life for our brothers and sisters in Myanmar has not become easier since then. We mustn't forget their hardships, and know they would be very thankful for our prayers. Here is a little update from Warwick, based on messages from Pastors in Yangon – the largest city in Myanmar.

"The military junta moved quickly to enforce the People's Military Service Law since it activated conscription in February. Up until now it has covered men aged 18 to 35 and women aged 18 to 27, for at least two years. The junta's objective is to conscript by force 60,000 men and women (seemingly mainly men for now) per year.

It is most concerning to be informed by Pastor Suan that the military Junta have announced that men aged 35 to 65 must also serve in the military. If this is ratified and enforced it would include all four of the pastors we have contact with, who are around 50 to 55 years of age. And is a further indication of the serious personnel shortage the junta faces as it continues its multi-front war with revolutionary groups across the country, which are gaining territory. We understand very many young men have chosen to flee and join the rebel army, rather than be enlisted into the junta army to fight the rebel army with the likelihood of soon being killed. To flee the county has become much more difficult and dangerous. Young Christians also face difficult choices. Enrolment at the Bible college is down 50% on last year as young men avoid Yangon to evade conscription.

As a result of the junta's mismanagement of the economy, the cost of living has greatly increased since the coup d'etat on 1 February 2021. Prior to this event the exchange rate was about 1,500 MMK to the pound. Now it is about 4,800 MMK to the pound. It is no wonder that the vast majority of the people of Myanmar - who were already poor materially prior to the coup - are finding it increasingly difficult to meet even basic living costs, owing to the greatly increased price of food and other essential goods, especially that which is imported. Unemployment has increased which adds to their difficulties."

Persecution of Christians also continues. Pastor Tuang reports that his home village in Chin State (a mainly Christian region, bordering India and Bangladesh) saw 750 out of 900 homes burned by military junta forces.

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him. It's hard to see how in this situation, but He is able to grow his church amid such trials – and in fact often chooses to do so. Indeed, back in July, Agape Church baptised 7 people, including one from a Buddhist background. Let's pray for a great turning to the Lord Jesus in Myanmar as Christians there continue to boldly witness, holding out the word of life!

Yours in Christ, Peter

Sermon Notes

Gluten free wafers are available for communicants. Non-alcoholic alternative is available during communion.

Someone from our Prayer Ministry Team (with [blue lanyards](#)) will be available after the 10am service to pray with those who would like prayer.

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Mary Kirkman, is available for advice or to talk through concerns relating to safeguarding.

Tel 07763 456015 or email: safeguarding@stjohnswoking.uk

Recordings of our livestreamed services are available on our website.